

# Small Business Hazardous Waste Program

## Sponsor/ Contact

Small Business and Household Hazardous Waste Coordinator  
Monroe County Solid Waste Management District  
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## Summary

Drop-off service, by appointment only, for Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQGs), who must pay for disposal.

## Start date/hours

A one-day pilot was held in January 1994. The program now operates on an appointment basis throughout the week.

## Cost

This service to CESQGs is designed to be self-sustaining through a fee arrangement. It works as follows:

1. CESQG calls the district to explain what hazardous materials are to be disposed , and to make an appointment.
2. District representative visits caller to identify and inventory material, and to confirm, using a certification form, that the business is a CESQG (generating less than 100 kg – 220 lbs.– of hazardous material per calendar month). District's cost to dispose is calculated, and 20% is added for administration. This administrative fee is intended to cover the business's share of the cost of drums transportation, and personnel used in processing their material.

*Example:* A painting contractor calls with 11 gallons of various paints and solvents (for fuel blending). District's cost to dispose of a 55-gallon drum of fuel blend is \$130. Adding the 20% administrative charge, the cost per 55-gallons is \$156. Painter will be billed \$156/drum -f- 55 gallon = \$2.84/gallon x 11 gallons = \$31.20.

3. Bill for service is prepared and mailed to CESQG, with expectation that payment will be made at the time materials are delivered to the hazardous waste collection center. *Also* included in the mailing is a copy of the signed form which the business completed during the inventory. The form certifies that the business is a CESQG and that the material has been properly identified for the district.

Since the Monroe County program is quite new and still gaining experience, it is difficult to say how well this cost-recovery system will work over time. The program manager notes that CESQGs who bring in paint without appointment during regular HHW Collection generally are not turned away. But no other products containing hazardous materials are accepted from businesses without going through the process. And, as with any business service, users who do not pay their bill are not served again until the account is brought up to date.

The pricing of service for materials that will be bulked as fuel blends is easy compared to pricing of materials that will be lab packed. It is difficult to predict what a lab pack will cost because of limits on density and the space occupied by the vermiculite packing material. Properly packed, a 55-gallon drum might contain as little as 8 gallons of material or as much as 25 gallons; but the disposal charge is by the drum – \$280 for incineration (vs. \$130 for fuel blending 55 gallons). For this reason, the District will soon switch to a fee schedule set up on a per-pound basis.

The estimated first-year cost of this program is \$6,000. The level of CESQG interest in this program won't be quantifiable until mid-1995. Then annual program costs can be more accurately calculated.

### Program Description

In the course of the next year, Monroe County SWMD will explore the possibility of banning the disposal of household and business hazardous waste in the county landfill. For HHW, the alternative point of disposal has been in operation since 1992. It is a collection site at the district's recycling center. HHW is accepted on Thursdays between the hours of Noon and 4 p.m., without appointment. Originally, appointments were required, but a high incidence of no-shows and the administrative burden led to dropping that requirement. Reusable paint also is accepted here and is available free for the taking. Waste oil tanks are self-serve at the recycling center and at two rural collection sites. Household battery bins are located at 28 retail stores around the county, as well as at the recycling center and all four rural collection stations.

A program manager and two part-time staff the program, paid assistants from Indiana University. Recently, the program has grown to include two graduate student interns and 7 hours/week of a fulltime employee of the recycling center.

The primary goal of the Small Business Hazardous Waste Program is, to quote a Monroe County publication, "to inform businesses and consumers about the health risks associated with hazardous materials and to help find substitutes that are safer to use and easier on the environment." It's worth noting that the primary goal is not to dispose of materials. But on the topic of disposal, the program is based on this rationale, again quoting:

"By combining material from many area businesses, the cost of handling, transportation, and disposal is considerably reduced for each Individual business. This cooperative collection program provides you with technical information that will help your business identify your hazardous material, find safer alternatives, and cost effectively recycle or dispose of this waste to minimize the legal risks to your business and the health risks to your employees."

Example poster for Monroe County program:

Small Manufacturing  
Heating & Cooling

Vehicle Repair  
Print Shops

Photo Developers  
Commercial Artists   Painters

# Small Business Hazardous Waste Program in Bloomington and Monroe County

Lawn and Garden   Photocopying  
Screen Printers Rental Mgmt.   Salvage

Construction  
Metal Finishing

Hundreds of businesses throughout Monroe County produce material that is classified as hazardous waste. If your business produces less than 220 pounds (about 27 gallons) of hazardous waste a month, the Monroe County Solid Waste Management District has a waste disposal program designed specifically for you!

### What is hazardous waste?

A substance is considered a hazardous waste if it is:

- Ignitable (paint wastes, solvents, some degreasers)
- corrosive (oven cleaner, battery acid, rust remover)
- reactive (bleaches, oxidizers, cyanide plating waste)
- toxic (poisons such as lead, mercury, and pesticides)

Any one of these characteristics is sufficient to classify the material as a hazardous waste. It may also be a hazardous waste based on factors such as human health or environmental effects.

### Why Does It Matter?

While "hazardous waste" sounds frightening and conjures up images of Chernobyl and the Toxic Avenger, it is mostly material used or produced by businesses and households every day. Very often people use a product without understanding its hazardous qualities. This means that managers, workers, and consumers expose their eyes, skin, and lungs to harmful chemicals which can cause immediate or cumulative, short-term or permanent damage.

The primary goal of the Small Business Hazardous Waste Program is to inform businesses and consumers about the health risks associated with hazardous materials and to help find substitutes that are safer to use and easier on our environment.

Another problem with hazardous waste is disposal. Since most people are unaware that their wastes may be hazardous, much of it ends up in the trash. Ignitable, corrosive, or toxic material in trash dumpsters has burned or exploded in garbage trucks and splashed, burned, or gassed sanitation workers, causing personal injury and spreading the waste into the surrounding neighborhood.

Most of the waste does make it from the dumpster to the landfill where it mixes and reacts with other chemicals and flows out as a toxic liquid called leachate. Leachate is typically high in heavy metals and solvents which contaminate residential well water in the area, as well as the rivers, lakes, and fish downstream. In other words, hazardous waste in the landfill can end up in our drinking water or in the food we eat!

Hazardous waste poured down the drain causes treatment problems for the local waste water utility. Bacteria naturally breakdown the organic material in our sewer water. These living organisms are sensitive to poisons. So hazardous waste dumped into the sewer system can be lethal to the treatment plant's bacterial chamber. And this translates into higher utility bills for local businesses and residents.

### Hazardous Waste Regulations

Hazardous waste is regulated under several state and federal laws, but principally through the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). RCRA identifies three categories of hazardous waste generators. Depending on your monthly generation of hazardous waste, you fall into one of these groupings:

Note: 1 barrel = about 440lbs of hazardous waste which is about 55 gallons.

- I. Large Quantity Generator (LQG) Generates 2,200 lbs/month or more (about 270 gallons) OR Generates 2.2 lbs/mo or more of acutely hazardous waste
- II. Small Quantity Generator (SQG)  
Generates 220 to 2,200 lbs/mo (between 27 and 270 gallons) AND Generates no more than 2.2 lbs/mo of acutely hazardous waste
- III. Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) Generates 220 lbs/mo or less (about 271-: gallons) AND Generates no more than 2.2 lbs/mo of acutely hazardous waste

LQGs and SQGs are subject to strict RCRA hazardous waste requirements. CESQGs, however, are exempt from RCRA. If you are a CESQG you are required to do three things:

- 1. Identify all hazardous waste you generate,
- 2. Dispose of the waste properly,
- 3. Never accumulate more than 1000 kg of hazardous waste.

### CESQG Hazardous Waste Disposal

Ensuring proper hazardous waste management can be difficult and expensive for small businesses. The Monroe County Solid Waste Management District recognizes the problems facing small businesses and, in January 1994, we initiated a program specifically designed to help small businesses dispose of their hazardous waste.

Our Small Business Hazardous Waste Program collects Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) hazardous waste bulks it into larger containers of compatible material, and pays a registered hazardous waste contractor to haul the waste for reuse, recycling, or final disposal. By combining material from many area businesses, the cost of handling, transportation, and disposal is considerably reduced for each individual business. This cooperative collection

program provides you with technical information that will help your business identify your hazardous material, find safer alternatives, and cost effectively recycle or dispose of this waste to minimize the legal risks to your business and the health risks to your employees.

We will collect your CESQG waste, by appointment, at our Household Hazardous Waste facility. Just call us and we'll explain our CESQG disposal program to you, take a look at what you have, and schedule an appointment for you to deliver the waste to our site. You will have to pay for disposal at the time of delivery, so we'll provide you a bill before your appointment day.

We can also provide any business in Monroe County with information on new technologies, materials reuse and recycling, and private hazardous waste haulers. And if we can't answer your question, we'll find someone who can!

### Helpful Phone Numbers

Do you use or generate hazardous waste? Call us first! Or try any of these helpful resources:

RCRA/Superfund Hotline (USEPA)  
1-800-424-9346

Small Business Ombudsman (USEPA)  
1-800-368-5888

Environmental Hotline (IDEM)  
1-800-451-6027

24-Hour Spill and Emergency Response (IDEM)  
1-317-241-4336

For more information, please contact the Monroe County Solid Waste Management District office at 3333867. To make a CESQG disposal appointment, contact the Small Business and Household Hazardous Waste Coordinator at 333-3848.

### Hazardous Waste Management Strategy

Indiana, as well as many other states and the U.S. EPA, have adopted the idea of a waste management hierarchy. The top goal is pollution prevention. It makes sense that generating less waste will make management easier. Waste recycling and treatment requires a further investment of time and energy, making these options less desirable. Land disposal is the last option because any hazardous waste disposed of in a landfill remains a potential future cleanup liability for the generator indefinitely.

### Hazardous Waste Commonly Generated by CESOG's

Printing, Photocopying, and Photo Development:

- |                                |                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| -Silver bearing solutions      | -Fountain solutions     |
| -Press and plate wash solvents | -Photochemical material |
| -Photographic fixers           | -Lithographic ink       |

Construction:

- |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| -Wet paints and thinners | -Cleaning solvents,   |
| -Wood preservatives      | -Resins and hardeners |

Equipment repair-vehicle maintenance:

- |                               |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| -Solvents used for degreasing | -Waste oil        |
| -Rust converters/removers     | -Oily debris      |
| -Cleaning filters             | -Waste fuel       |
| Used brake pads               | -Waste antifreeze |

Maintenance-Rental Management

- Waste cleaning agents
- Wet paints and thinners
- Herbicides and pesticides
- Waste oils

CALL 333-3848  
for an Appointment

CONDITIONALLY EXEMPT SMALL QUANTITY GENERATOR

Certification Form

In order to confirm your generator status and properly dispose of your waste, please read and sign the following:

I CERTIFY THAT THIS BUSINESS GENERATES LESS THAN 220 POUNDS (100kg) OF HAZARDOUS WASTE PER MONTH, AND LESS THAN 2.2 POUNDS (1kg) OF ACUTELY HAZARDOUS WASTE PER MONTH. (Note: Waste oil is not included.)

THE ENCLOSED INVOICE IS THE DISTRICT'S APPROXIMATE COST OF DISPOSAL. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS BUSINESS, OR THE PROPRIETOR OF THIS BUSINESS, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR AIM COSTS INCURRED BY THE DISTRICT IN THE PROPER DISPOSAL OF THESE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.

I ALSO CERTIFY THAT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, I HAVE ACCURATELY REPRESENTED THE CONTENTS OF THE MATERIAL DELIVERED TO THE DISTRICT.

I have read the above and understand the conditions and provisions that apply to the use of the District's Small Business Hazardous Waste Program.

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Representative: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print name)

Signature of  
Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The Monroe County Solid Waste Management District appreciates your participation in the Small Business Hazardous Waste Program. By ensuring that your material is properly handled and disposed of, you have demonstrated a commitment to responsible resource management which benefits both human health and the environment in Monroe County.

Appointment Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_